I agree with him entirely and I presume being a Member from West Bengal, he was talking about West Bengal that there are certain grave problems in West Bengal where the loans do not get to the people.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, I protest. That is wrong (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: And one of the reasons that such loan melas are good is that the local parochialism can be cut through and the benefits can go to the correct beneficiaries. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you please sit down. I am asking Mr. M. S. Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, the Prime Minister has opened the Pandora's box by his answer. May I know from him whether it is not a fact that in certain areas, in certain States, loan melas have been converted into political melas?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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12 NOON

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Currency press at Salbourni, West Bengal

1. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had announced its decision to set up a currency press at Salbourni, West Bengal and whether the decision stands even now; and

(b) if so, what actions the Government have taken in that direction and details of progress made so far in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Site Selection Committee has selected Salbourni in District Midnapore, West Bengal as a site for setting up a New Currency Note Press. A detailed feasibiltiy report is being prepared.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Government is implementing its decision to set up a currency press in the State of West Bengal. But I would like to know from the Minister whether during the visit of our Prime Minister, any Central team visited the State of West Bengal last year and whether this subject of setting up of a new currency press cropped up at the meeting with the Chief Minister of the State and if so, whether the subject was discussed in that meeting or not?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, it is true that the hon. Prime Minister with his team visited the West Bengal on 18th September, 1986 and in the meeting, this issue had come up. When it was raised, the hon. Prime Minister had stated that this currency press will be set up in West Bengal.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, I am happy that the Government has taken a decision and the Site Selection Committee also selected Salbourni for establishing a new currency press. But Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the broad outline of this Project.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, this project will have the capacity of 5,000 million pieces per year and the cost of the project would be about Rs. 370 crores. A feasibility report is being prepared in respect of this project and when the report comes, further details will be available.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, this question of setting up a currency press in West Bengal was mooted

three-four years back when late Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. At that time, in West Bengal, at Panagarh, a site was selected and it was announced by the then Finance Minister that a currency press is going to be set up. After that, the project remained shelved for three-four years. Another plea was taken that the site at Panagarh was not suitable. Then the West Bengal Government took up the case and identified 400 acres of land near Durgapur and informed the Central Government to set up a currency press but on that also, the Central Government remained silent. Now, Sir, after remaining silent for three-four years, just on the eve of a sensitive event that is going to take place in West Bengal and in three or four other States, I do not understand why the Minister has just chosen this moment to announce that they have selected Salbourni in Midnapore District. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? Please ask the question.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, I am coming to that. I would like to know from the Government when the Govt. of India has informed the decision about setting up the currency press at Salbourni in Midnapore District to West Bengal Government and when actually the Government is going to implement the scheme because it has been hanging fire for the last four years or whether it is merely a tall election promise, to be completely forgotten after the election is over?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes are over.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, as I understand, the hon. Member is objecting to our putting up a currency press... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: I very much welcome it. For the last four years, we have been fighting for it but you kept it shelved. (*Interruption*).

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: I think, the hon. Member is fully aware why the site was shifted from Panagarh There are certain requirements about keeping such institutions at a specific distance away from the border. And if they are within a certain distance of the border, there are tremendous complications coming up. So, it has to be moved further from Panagarh. That is why Panagarh was not found suitable. Last year in September when I went to Bengal this question was raised by the Chief Minister and told him at that time that if he gives us a site which is suitable, we will put up the press there. He has given us this site. The Site Selection Committee has okayed it and the DPR will be made and the press will be set up as soon as possible. But as I understand the honourable Member, one of the questions he has asked is he is wondering why it is being done now; if he is wondering why it is being done now and he wants us to delay it, at his request we can look into it.

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: There is already a currency note press at Nasik at present for printing currency notes of various denominations. Now, does the Government intend to take away some part of the same press to Salbourni or does the Government desire to curtail the labour from the State and remove them to Salbourni?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: It is a new press being set up; there is no question of shifting anything to that project.

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : श्रीमन् करेंसी का प्रेस आप चाहे कहीं पर भी लगाएं; हमें एतराज नहीं है, लेकिन जो हमारे देश में प्राइवेट प्रेस हैं वे जो दो नंबर के नोट छापते हैं, सौ रुपए के और 50 रुपए के नोट छापते हैं, और मैंने श्री वी० पी० सिंह को जब वे वित्त मंत्री थे तो

वे नोट दिखाये थे कि इसकी जांच करें लेकिन उसकी जांच नहीं हुई जब कि 50 रुपए के जाली नोट बराबर छापे जा रहे हैं। क्या जो ऐसी प्राइवेट प्रेसें चल रही हैं उनको पकड़ने के लिए आपने कोई कार्यवाही की है या आपके पास कोई ऐसी मशीनरी है जो उनको पकड़ सके ? क्या इसका प्रबंध आप करेंगे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question relates to Government press and not private press. Question disallowed. Now we take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cess on ex-factory value of output of Industrial Units for research and development

*221: SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to levy a cess on the ex-factory value of the output of each industrial unit in the country in order to boost research and development and to sponsor research in the industrial sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Govt. propose to provide encouragement and incentives for indigenous research and development in the industrial field in preference to import of technology from other countries;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme, if any, formulated in this regard so far; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The proposal to creat a Technological Development Fund to support Research & Development Programmes of scheduled industries is under consideration of the Government. An amount of Rs. 100 crores per year is proposed to be provided to the Fund. The functions to be assigned to the proposed Fund include promotion of Research & Development work of national or industry-wise importance. The manner of raising the additional resources for the Fund is yet to be decided.

(c) and (d) To encourage R & D in industries, Government has taken several measures providing various types of incentives. Some of the measures are de-licensing of and preferential treatment in licensing of industries based on indigenous technology and appropriate fiscal incentives for expenditure incurred on science research and utilisation of indigenous technology.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Advertisements and sponsored programmes on Doordarshan

*222. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to increase the time slot advertisements and sponsored programmes on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what percentage of the total programme time is presently allotted to the sponsored programmes and advertisement and to what percentage it is likely to be raised;